30th September 1955]

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter is under consideration.

* 31 Q.—SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR (on behalf of Sri K. P. Gopalan) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government have approved the standing order of the Shoranur Tile Works that married women are not entitled to get employment in it;

(b) whether it is a fact that on 1st September 1955, the management dismissed three women workers on the ground that they are married women; and

(c) the basis on which the Government have approved this standing order?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (a) & (c) The draft standing orders sent by the management of Shoranur Tile Works were certified by the Commissioner of Labour as they were in conformity with the provisions of the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946.

(b) A report has been called for from the Labour Officer, Kozhikode, and it is awaited.

* 32 Q.—SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR (on behalf of Sri M. Kalyanasundaram) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received any representation on behalf of the workers of Virudhunagar Textile Mills, Soolakarai, Ramanathapuram district, to the effect that the mill has been locked out from 18th September 1955 without due notice; and

(b) if so, what action was taken by the Government on the same?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Conciliation proceedings were held by the Labour Officer, Tirunelveli. The demands are under the consideration of the Government.

Malabar Timber Producers' Association

* 33 Q.—SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR (on behalf of Sri K. P. Gopalan) : Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether he has received a memorandum recently from the Malabar Timber Producers' Association, Kozhikode, suggesting ways and means to promote the timber industry of Malabar and to the redressal of their grievances; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

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THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (*a*) A memorandum drawing the attention of Government to the need for the formulation of a settled forest policy together with suggestions for undertaking legislative measures to achieve the purpose have been received.

(*b*) The matter is under the consideration of the Government.

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : In view of the importance of the contents of the memorandum that has been submitted by the Timber Producers' Association, Malabar, will the Government see that a decision is taken urgently and that the decisions are implemented so that the timber industry may flourish without affecting the afforestation of the estate?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I may tell the hon. Member that the Government are not interested in causing any avoidable delay in the matter.

Local Library Authority, Coimbatore

* 2589 *Q.*—SRI P. G. MANICKAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) the amount allotted by the Government to Local Library Authority, Coimbatore district;

(*b*) the total amount of cess collected from municipalities and panchayat boards since the formation of the Local Library Authority in Coimbatore district;

(*c*) the amount spent so far and for what purpose; and

(*d*) whether there is any unspent balance, and if so, how much?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : (*a*) & (*b*) The amount of library cess collected in Coimbatore district since the formation of the Local Library Authority is as follows :—

Year.	*Cess collected.*
	RS.
1950–51	6,189
1951–52	36,669
1952–53	37,870
1953–54	74,612
1954–55	99,268

A contribution equal to the library cess collected was made to the Local Library Authority each year from State Funds.

(*c*) A sum of Rs. 1,85,362 was spent by the Local Library Authority during this period on establishing libraries and for spreading library service within its area.

(*d*) Yes, Sir. The unspent amount at the close of 1954–55, was Rs. 3,23,854 (rupees three lakhs, twenty-three thousand, eight hundred and fifty-four only) a considerable portion of which is likely to be spent during the current year.